

Camp Cleawox Organizational Tract  
Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area,  
Siuslaw National Forest  
Florence Vicinity  
Lane County  
Oregon

HABS No. OR-137

HABS  
ORE,  
20-FLO.V  
1-

WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Western Region  
Department of the Interior  
San Francisco, California 94102

HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY  
CAMP CLEAWOX ORGANIZATIONAL TRACT

HABS No. OR-137

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ORE,  
20 - FLO. V,  
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Location: USGS Siltcoos Lake, Oregon, 15 Minute Quadrangle, Universal Transverse Mercator Coordinates: 410600 Easting, 4865800 Northing.

Camp Cleawox, is on the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Siuslaw National Forest, occupying Government lots 8 and 10, Section 10, Township 19 South, Range 12 West, Willamette Meridian, Lane County, Oregon, at M.P. 1.14, Lane County road #5316, (Mitchell Loop Rd.).

Present Owner: USDA Forest Service  
Pacific Northwest Region  
Siuslaw National Forest  
Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area  
Reedsport, Oregon 97467

Present Use: Present use, is an organizational camp under Special Use Permit to Western Rivera Girl Scout Council. Projected date of alteration, April, 1985.

Significance: Camp Cleawox is a product of "The Great Depression", constructed as a Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) project for the USDA Forest Service in the mid 1930's. The design was typical Depression-era rustic architecture of natural wood and stone for a northwest forest environment.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of construction: Construction of the organizational camp occurred in 1938-39.
2. Site plan development: The site was surveyed April 20, 1935, by R.R. Frency and E.A. Meola for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Resettlement Administration. A preliminary design for the Cleawox Organizational Tract was prepared in August 1937 by E.A. Meola. However, development of the organization camp followed a plan dated November 30, 1937, attributed to the USDI National Park Service with the Oregon State Highway Commission. As constructed, site development was never done to the extent of the 1937 design.
3. Architect: All building plans were developed by Howard L. Gifford, architect in the Forest Service Regional Office.
4. Original and subsequent owners: Camp Cleawox has been under constant ownership of the Forest Service since its development and has been occupied under Special Use Permit, primarily by the Western Rivers

Girl Scout Council. Prior to 1949, permit terms were seasonal, allowing use by organizational groups on a first-come, first-served basis. No permit information dated prior to 1946 has been located; however, between 1946 and 1949, records indicate that in addition to the Girl Scouts, permits were issued to other groups including:

Wasley Foundation, Corvallis, Oregon  
Free Methodist Youth Group, Albany, Oregon  
Corvallis Youth Fellowship, Corvallis, Oregon  
Methodist Church, Corvallis, Oregon  
Troop 16, Boy Scouts of America, Junction City, Oregon  
Lane County 4-H Club, Eugene, Oregon

In 1949, a term permit was issued to The Three Rivers Girl Scout Council for a ten year period, who have since kept it occupied continuously. Records also show that through the years of occupation, the name for the group evolved from The Eugene Girl Scout Council to Three Rivers Girl Scout Council to the present Western Rivers Girl Scout Council.

5. Builder: Camp Cleawox was constructed by Civilian Conservation Corpsmen.
6. Original Plans and Construction: The organizational complex was never constructed to the extent of the original design. But, as built in 1938-39, the site composed 16 major structural features, including a lodge, 13 Adirondack-type sleeping shelters, an infirmary and a change house. Other facilities included privies adjacent to sleeping units and activity areas, open stone fireplaces in front of each shelter, and a group fire circle in each unit. The lodge was centrally located, with the sleeping shelters grouped in 5 units, arranged in a rough semi-circle around the lodge.
7. Alterations and additions: Considerable modification of the camp has occurred during its 48 years of existence. The construction of Mitchell Lane, the road leading to the site from U.S. Highway 101, was accomplished in the middle 1950's, allowing the first vehicle entrance for supplies and equipment. Prior to this time everything came by barge from Honeyman State Park.

In general, all of the structures have been severely affected by the wet coastal climate. Winter storms, and an 80-inch annual rainfall, have resulted in the complete loss of some of the structures and considerable alteration of others. Near constant repair and remodeling has been essential to ensure a safe and usable organizational site.

A 1962 Columbus Day storm caused extensive damage to the site. The three shelters in the "Viking" unit were damaged beyond repair by falling trees, and all structural remains subsequently were removed. The shelters were not rebuilt. The west end of the infirmary and all of the shower house were also destroyed during the storm. Both had been repaired or replaced by 1964.

More recently, and due to deterioration from weathering and insect damage, the half-log base circumscribing the porch and transverse wings was replaced with treated squared timbers of similar dimension. The substructural members not previously replaced by a concrete block foundation were supplanting with dimension materials using the same concrete footings. On the interior, the 2" by 12" plank flooring has been covered or replaced with plywood sheets and kitchen facilities have been updated.

Although the original design of the Lodge is clearly evident, several changes that have resulted in a loss of character are discernible. The primary split shake roof materials were replaced with rolled metal in the 1950's. Two small covered kitchen porches were added adjacent to the side entries. The walk-in cooler built immediately to the rear of the Lodge in 1956 is attached to the right side porch by a cover extending between them. A cement block foundation was placed beneath the front gable extension and beneath portions of the transverse wings. The substructure and flooring of the porch was replaced, and subsequently overlaid with plywood in place of the original 2" by 12" planks. The deteriorated center section of the log lintel over the porch entrance has been removed.

In March 1982, a corner of the fireplace foundation fell off, enabling a view of the interior substructure. Subsequent inspection showed that the southwest corner of the chimney foundation had settled sufficiently to cause cracks in the fireplace structure. The concrete leveling slab immediately below the fireplace was also cracked in three places. In addition, the supporting cedar timbers that could be seen were badly deteriorated. Further investigation suggested that the entire substructure was unsafe, and that the approximately 25 ton fireplace had very little actual support. The strength of the fireplace mortar was also questionable. Possible repair alternatives were considered, but the safety risks of performing any of the repair methods were great, and the chance of success low. Consequently, it was decided to dismantle the fireplace and replace it with a wood heater and metal flue which are in use today.

In addition to the loss of the Viking Unit sleeping shelters, the others have undergone considerable deterioration and a degree of change. By the mid 1960's, the shake roofs had rotted and were in need of replacement. The roofs were removed, re-sheathed with plywood, and for primarily fire prevention reasons were covered with composition material. In addition, insect damage has caused random replacement of a portion of the pole roof support members, with sawn material. Also, plywood has been added to the worn and weathered plank flooring.

Though still in place, some of the sleeping shelters have deteriorated beyond safe usage and have been condemned. Those still in use are marginal at best.

B. Historical context:

The Girl Scouts began camping at Cleawox Lake slightly earlier than the signing of a lease with the USDA Forest Service on May 8, 1930. There were few facilities at that time, but between 1930 and 1937 several areas were cleared, shelters were built, trails were constructed and a crafts shop was established. The structures used by the first Scouts have all since been removed, and the activity areas overgrown by vegetation.

Through coordination of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Resettlement Administration's, Civilian Conservation (CCC) and the USDA Forest Service, a group organizational camp was developed on the site. The 1937 plan, "Cleawox Lake Organization Tract," shows the proposed structures, activity areas and trails. The orientation and locations of the structures shown were revised when the buildings were actually constructed. Many of the proposed structures were never built and others have decayed or have been destroyed over the years, leaving only a few of the original CCC buildings.

Through the years, many changes or alterations of the original facilities occurred due to the natural conditions and functional improvements cited under Part I-A, Physical History, sub-heading 5, Alterations and Additions. The 1962 Columbus Day storm had considerable impact on the organizational site. Considering this, the overall condition of the remaining structures and an uncertainty of the Girl Scout Council's future program, the Forest Service requested long-range organizational plans for continued use of the area. Council response, was that they intended to use the camp for as long as the Forest Service would continue the lease. They did, however, express a need for improved, and additional facilities.

Between that time and 1972, the Council Board, with involvement of the Camp Committee, Scout Office Staff, Parents, Girl Scouts, and local, county, state and federal agencies, assessed future needs of the organization and developed a long-range development plan for the property. The plan, titled "Cleawox Activity Master Plan" was prepared by BALZHISER, LONGWOOD, SMITH & ASSOCIATES, Architects & Planners of Eugene, Oregon and Seattle, Washington. The plan evaluated the existing facility condition, and present and future needs of the organization. The plan, which was accepted and approved by the Forest Service, provided for the eventual removal of all existing facilities, and replacement with more functional modern structures.

Implementation of the Master Plan is solely the responsibility of the Girl Scout Council, and to date, funding has not allowed such new construction. During the next ten years following adoption of the Master Plan, normal use of the camp continued with maintenance as needed to ensure a safe and usable site. Repairs or alterations were done with Forest Service approval, but not necessarily in context with original design.

In 1982, and in compliance with Public Law 11593, Gail Throop, USDA Forest Service Region 6 historian, conducted a Historic Site Evaluation of the organizational camp. It was determined through the evaluation that Camp Cleawox was eligible for placement on the National Register of Historic Sites. Appropriate steps for full compliance with the Law were taken, and

in 1984, the Siuslaw National Forest conducted an environmental analysis to determine appropriate action for further management of the area.

The range of alternatives evaluated included, restoration of the historic facility, preservation of the existing facility, implementation of the Girl Scout Master Plan, and no action. Nine evaluation criteria were established, including:

1. Public Safety and Protection
2. Cultural Resources
3. Recreation Opportunities
4. Economic Considerations
5. Environmental Concerns
6. User Needs
7. Visual Management
8. Functional Relationship
9. Traditional Values

On August 31, 1984, a Decision Notice was signed by the Forest Supervisor, identifying the Girl Scout Master Plan as the Forest Service preferred alternative. A Memorandum of Agreement for appropriate removal of the structure was secured between the Forest Service, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation.

## PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

### A. Lodge

1. General statement: The lodge is the focal point of the camp and for many camp activities. Containing approximately 3,736 sq. feet, it serves as a dining hall with supporting kitchen facilities, and as a gathering place. The site chosen for the Lodge is elevated and relatively level, with a slight natural depression bisecting it. The site was selected to allow a lower level for storage without extensive excavation.
  - a. Architectural character: The Lodge is a single story building of log and frame construction, cruciform in plan.
  - b. Condition of fabric: Weathering, excessive moisture, and insect damage have contributed significantly to an overall deteriorated condition of the total facility. Also, material changes that result from maintenance activities and functional improvements, detract from appearance and character. Though the Lodge is still in use, functionality and safety are marginal. The condition survey which determined that restoration or long term maintenance of the structure is not economically attainable.

2. Description of exterior:

- a. Over-all dimensions: Being oruciform in shape, the overall diminsion of the lodge, including the porch, is 64 by 85 feet. The mess hall portion measures 33 by 64 feet, while the section containing the kitchen, living quarters, levstory and storage area, measures 42 by 31 feet. The front porch area measures 10 by 28 feet.
- b. Foundations: Extant building plans indicste a foundstion of 12 inch diameter stub posts on 24" hy 24" concrete or rock footings. However, the plans were drawn for three dissimilar locations and anticipated s flat building site. No details ss to whether the pilings were to he enclosed above ground level or below grade were included.

As built, the fireplace was based on an unreinforced concrete slab, 6' by 12', poured on natural ground. Cedar timbers approximately 8 feet in length and varying in diameter from 16 inches to 28 inches were placed uprightly on the slab. Rocks and stone rubble filled the voids between the cedar timbers. A concrete facing was poured around the timbers and an unreinforced concrete leveling slab poured on top. The encasing concrete apparently was poured in many segments, resulting in poor jointure.

- c. Structural system, framing and walls: The lower level on the left side (north) elevation is enclosed hy lengths of 10-inch logs placed horizontally between 12-inch uprights.
- d. Porches: The frontal gable extension forms an enclosed porch. The exterior wslls of the porch and the transverse wings are composed of 10-inch logs, verticelly placed. Corner posts and intermediate supports comprise 12-inch logs. The porch is accessed by straight plank steps, and double-leaf vertical plank doors with a window panel, provide ingress to the building. Side entries are off-set on both the north and south elevations of the rear extension.
- e. Chimney and fireplace: The building plans indicste two interior chimneys, faced with netive stone, one located to the rear of the Lodge to draft an open-hearth kitchen fireplace, the other piercing the main ridgeline immediately behind the transverse section. The first was never built. The second serves a large open-hearth fireplace centered on the east wall of the dining hall. The fireplace, of rough-cut coarsed stone extending upward 21 3/4 feet, provided the central focus for the Lodge and supplied tbe only source of heat.
- f. Openings:
  - (1) Doorways and doors: The main entry is centered in the front gahle extension. Double-leaf board doors, centered in the front porch, ecess the interior.

- (2) Windows: In the log portion of the building, window openings are defined by the 12-inch uprights, log lintels of equal dimension and half log sills. Screen panels with 2" by 4" mullions cover the openings. In the rear portion, window openings are covered with mullioned screen panels in plain frames.
  - g. Roof: The frontal extension is covered with a broad low gable roof, while the transverse wings and the rear extension exhibit similarly low gable roofs. The eaves project with rafters exposed, whereas a shaped log fascia covers the projecting verges. The porch gable end, the gable and the entire rear extension are covered with split shakes, 25 inches long, 16 inches to the weather.
3. Description of interior:
    - a. Floor plans: A copy of the original floor plan is included in the appendix of this report.
    - b. Flooring: The original 2" x 12" plank flooring, has since been replaced by plywood.
    - c. Wall and ceiling finish: The Lodge is fully open-beam construction, with the interior walls being of the same vertical logs as the exterior walls.

#### B. Adirondack Sleeping Shelters

1. General statement: The sleeping shelters, organized in self-centered units of two and three, were identical in design, materials, and construction.
  - a. Architectural character: Frequently referenced as Adirondacks, they depart from the traditional rectangular shape by being hexahedral in plan. The front, or largest dimension of the structure is open.
  - b. Condition of fabric: The shelters that remain range from fair to poor condition, with a portion of the structures presently condemned for reasons of safety.
2. Description of exterior:
  - a. Over-all dimensions: Being hexahedral in shape, each structure has six walls. At the widest dimensions, the building measures 31 feet 4 1/2 inches by 14 feet 3 inches.
  - b. Foundations: The shelters rest on either log mud sills or concrete or stone footings.

- c. Structural system, framing and walls: The Cleawox sleeping shelters are of pole construction, and with split-shake exterior walls.
- d. Porches, stoops: An eyebrow or shed roof extending the length of the anterior wall protects the open elevation. A 12-inch diameter shaped log forms the front step.
- e. Doorways and openings: The front, or open side of the shelter provides the only opening in the structure.
- f. Roof: The rear sloping planes of the roof are pyramidal, while the frontal aspect has a low gable shape.

3. Description of interior:

- a. Storage lockers and bunk beds: Each shelter was furnished with 8 storage lockers made of boards and fitted on either straight side wall and on the rear center wall. Four board bunk beds are fitted on the angled side walls.
- b. Flooring: Flooring was originally 2" x 12" planking; however, in most structures this original floor has been replaced or covered by plywood.

4. Site:

- a. General setting and orientation: Camp Cleawox is located approximately 2 1/2 miles south of the town of Florence, on the Oregon Coast. It lies adjacent to the east shore of Cleawox Lake, approximately one half mile west of U.S. Highway 101. Bordered on the west and south by Cleawox Lake, on the northeast by private land, and on the southeast by Jessie M. Honeyman State Park, the entire camp encompasses 47 acres of land. An irregular parcel of 33.8 acres is included as part of the Oregon Dunes National Recreation Area, Siuslaw National Forest, administered by the USDA Forest Service; the remaining 13.2 acres belong to the State of Oregon.

The elevation of this tract varies between 70 and 120 feet above sea level, with topography characterized as low and somewhat rolling. Vegetation is dense, consisting of a shrub layer of salmonberry, huckleberry, salal, waxmyrtle and rhododendron overtopped with pole size Douglas-fir, shorepine and alder. Most of the old-growth timber standing on the site when the camp was constructed, was blown down during the 1962 Columbus Day storm. The maritime climate is typically cool and moist, with temperatures averaging 61° and annual rainfall averaging 77 inches.

The site was originally designed making easy access from the highway by boat to most sleeping units and the lodge. Although the sleeping units were located near water they still focused toward the lodge. This focus was achieved by the circular layout

around the lodge, plus the system of trails radiating from the lodge.

- b. Outbuildings and other facilities: Other facilities included privies adjacent to sleeping units and activity areas, open stone fireplaces in front of each shelter, and a group fire circle in each unit. In most locations the stone fireplaces have deteriorated beyond usage, or no longer exist.

### PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

Balzhiser, Longwood, Smith & Associates, Architects and Planners A.I.A., Cleawox Activity Master Plan, July 14, 1972, 101 pages, a contract report for the Western Rivers Girl Scout Council.

Throop, E. Gail, Historic Resources Evaluation Report: Cleawox Organization Site, Siuslaw National Forest, USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Portland, Oregon. 1982.

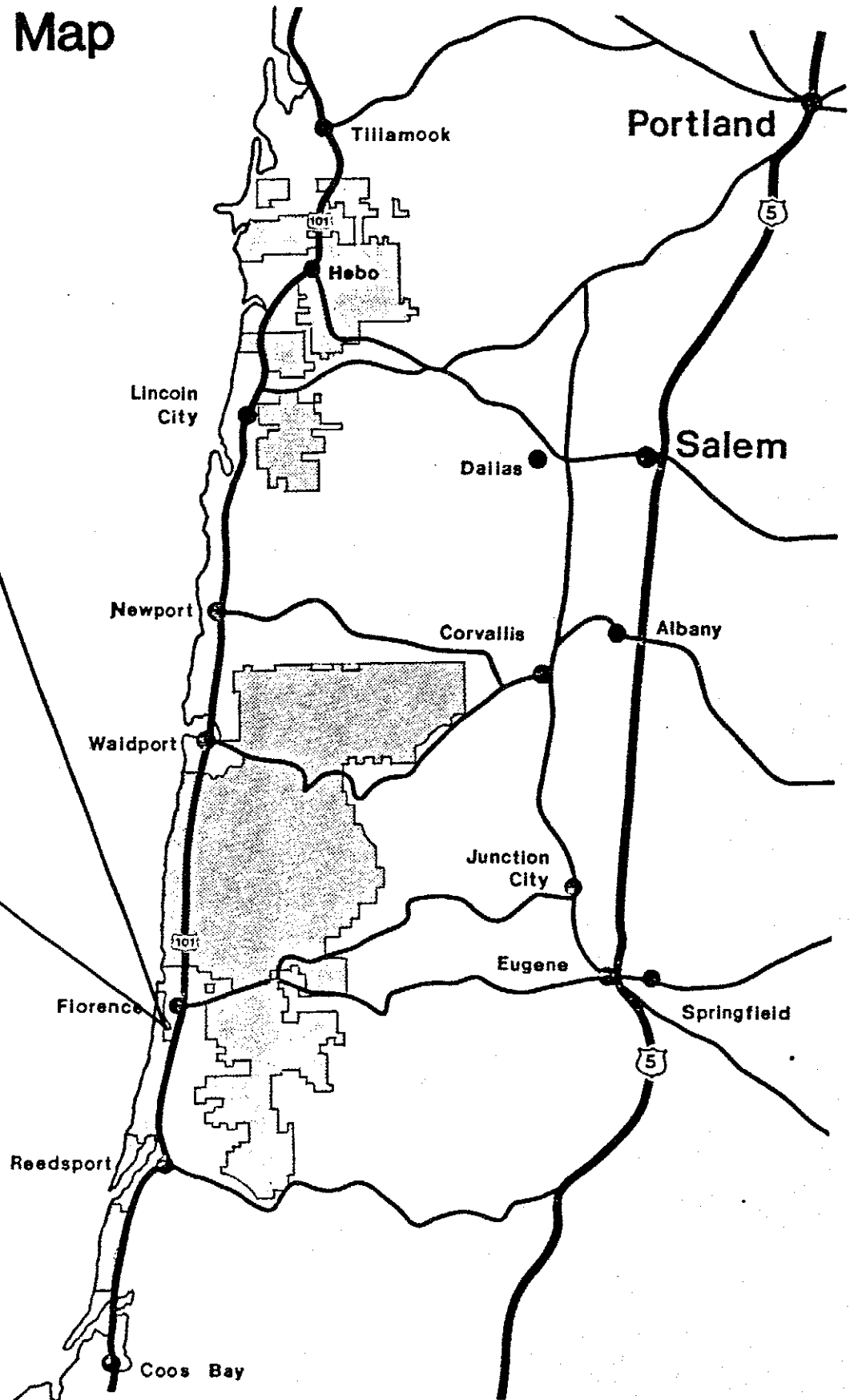
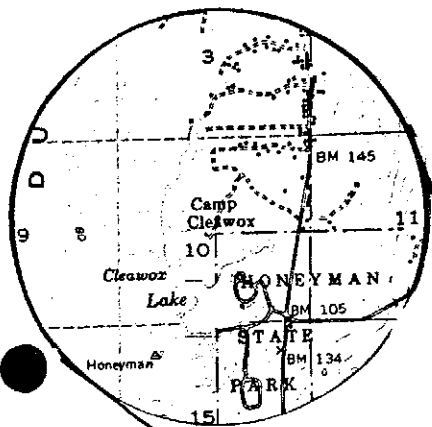
U.S. Department of Agriculture, Forest Service, Siuslaw National Forest: Environmental Assessment for Cleawox Organization Site. Corvallis Oregon. 1984.

Siuslaw National Forest, Term Special-Use Permit. Form 2700-5(9/72). Western Rivers Girl Scout Council, Cleawox Organization Camp. Dated May 29, 1975 as amended.

### PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

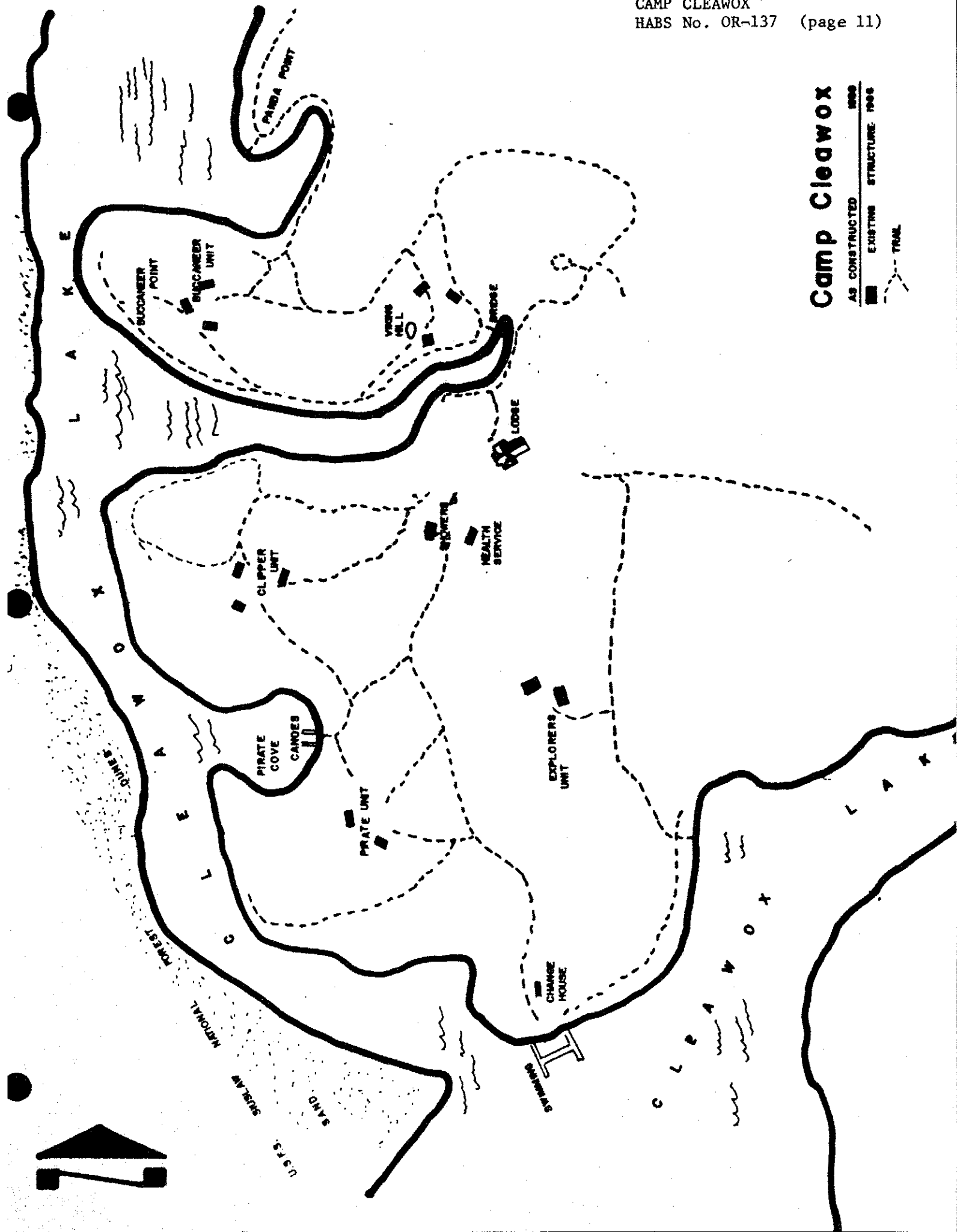
This project was initiated and completed by USDA-Forest Service, Pacific Northwest Region, Siuslaw National Forest in partial fulfillment of a Memorandum of Agreement among the Forest Service, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer. Recorded under the direction of the National Park Service, Western Region, Division of National Register Programs, the project was completed during the summer of 1985 by USDA-Forest Service personnel. Historical information was compiled by E. Gail Throop, Regional Historian, Pacific Northwest Region, USDA-Forest Service. Gene Large, Cultural Resource Technician and Richard D. Lilja, Cultural Resource Coordinator, Siuslaw National Forest, completed the HABS data recording and assembled this document.

# Vicinity Map



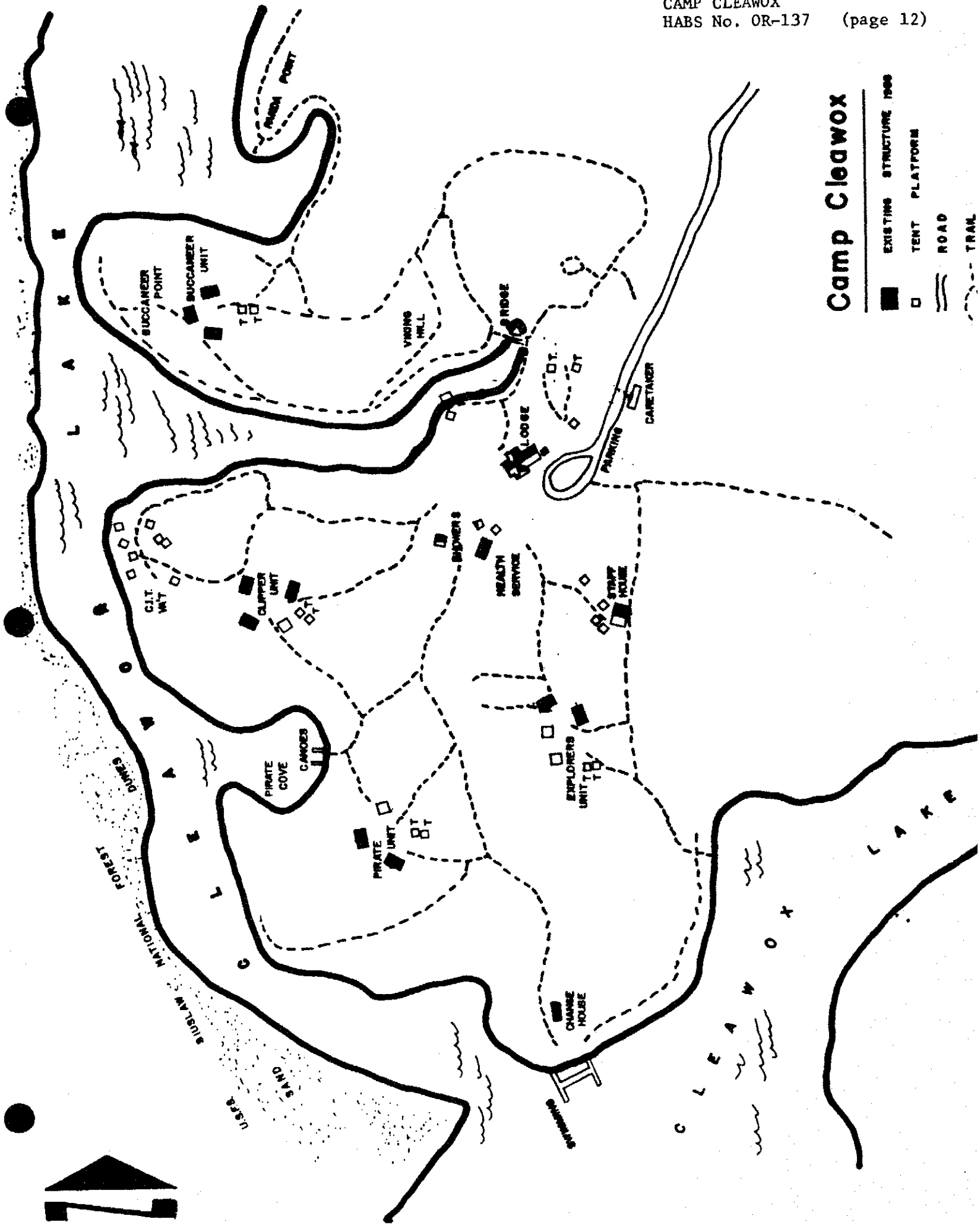
# Camp Cleawox

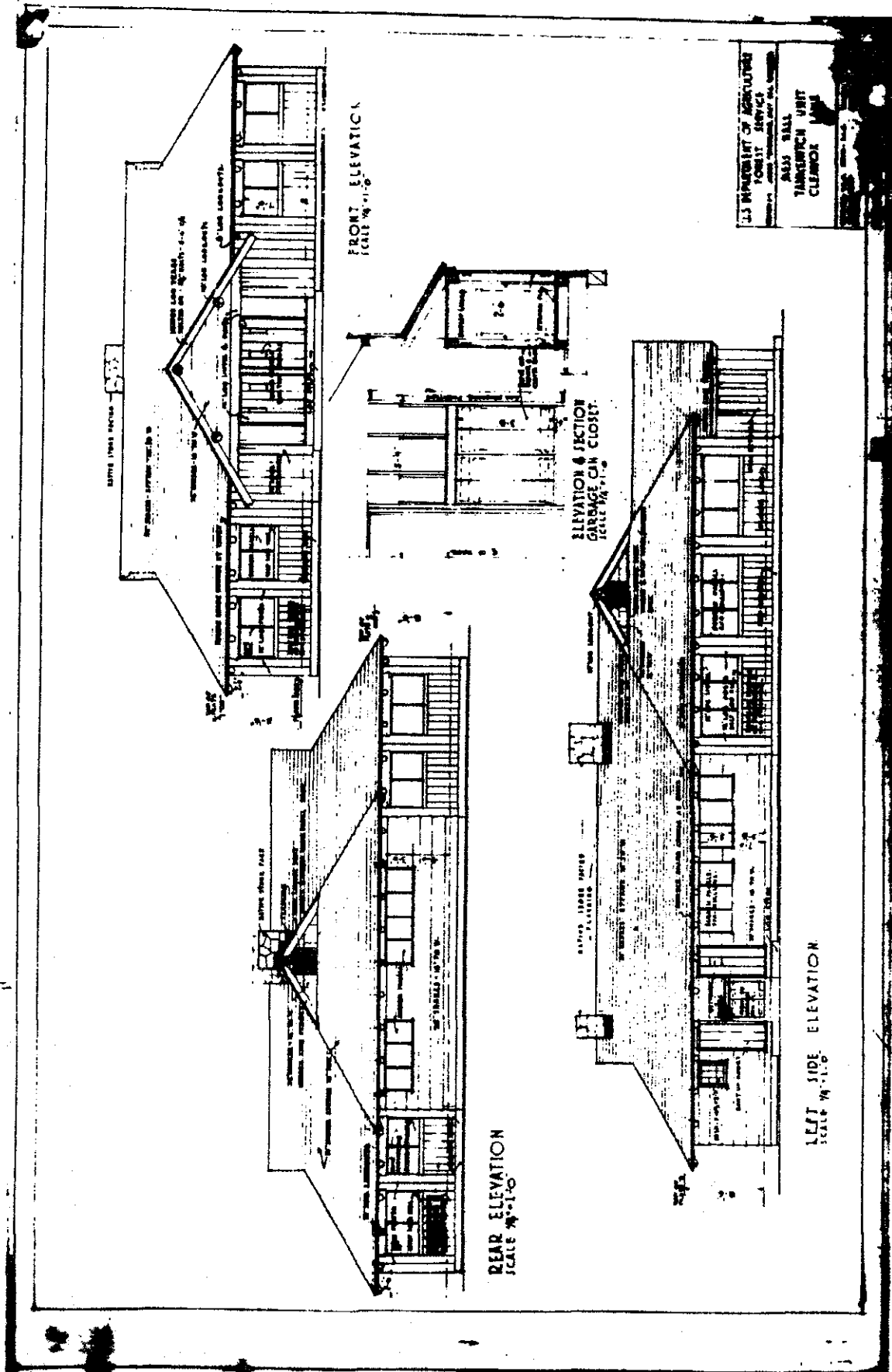
AS CONSTRUCTED 1969  
EXISTING STRUCTURE 1966  
TRAIL

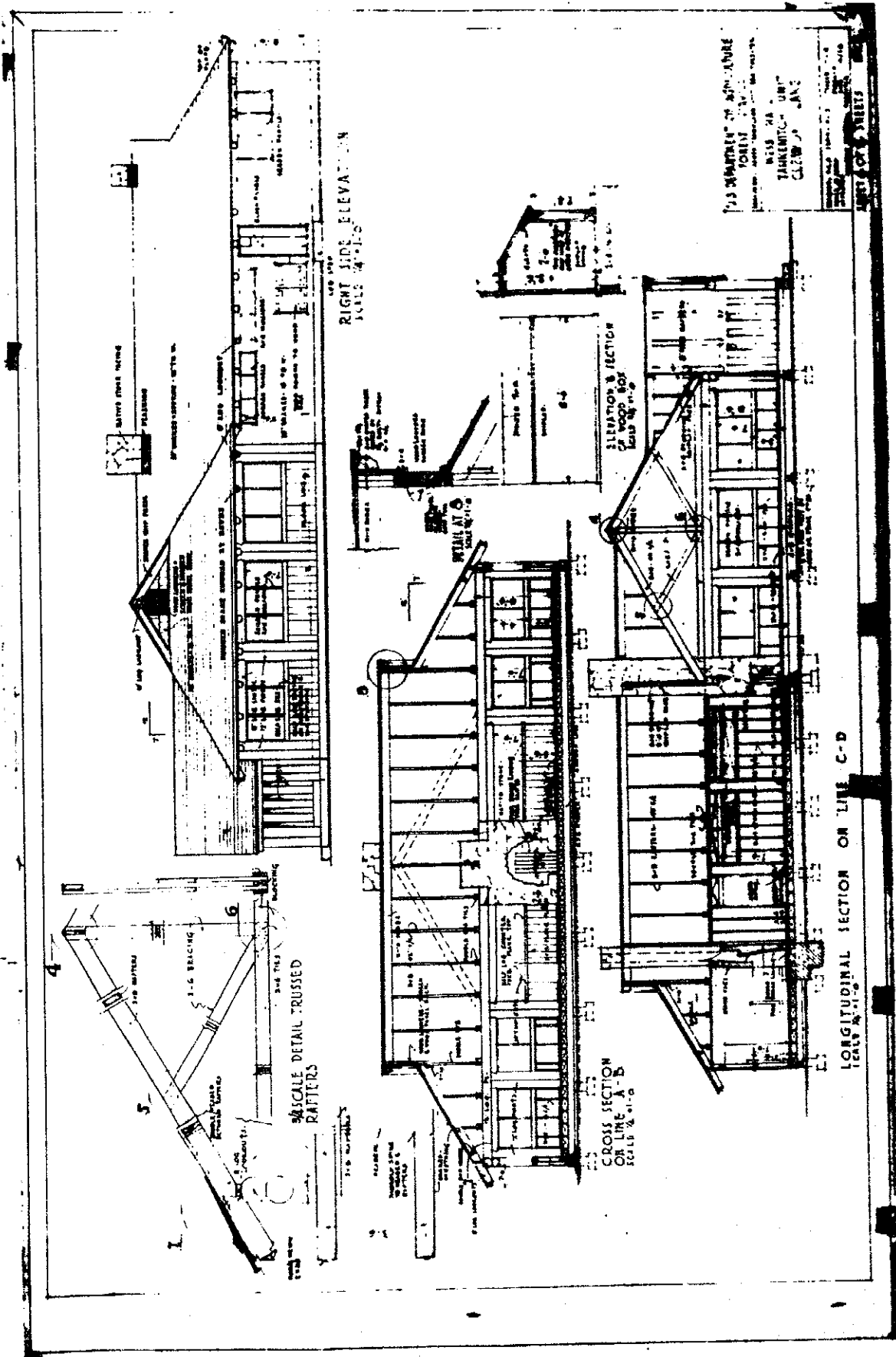


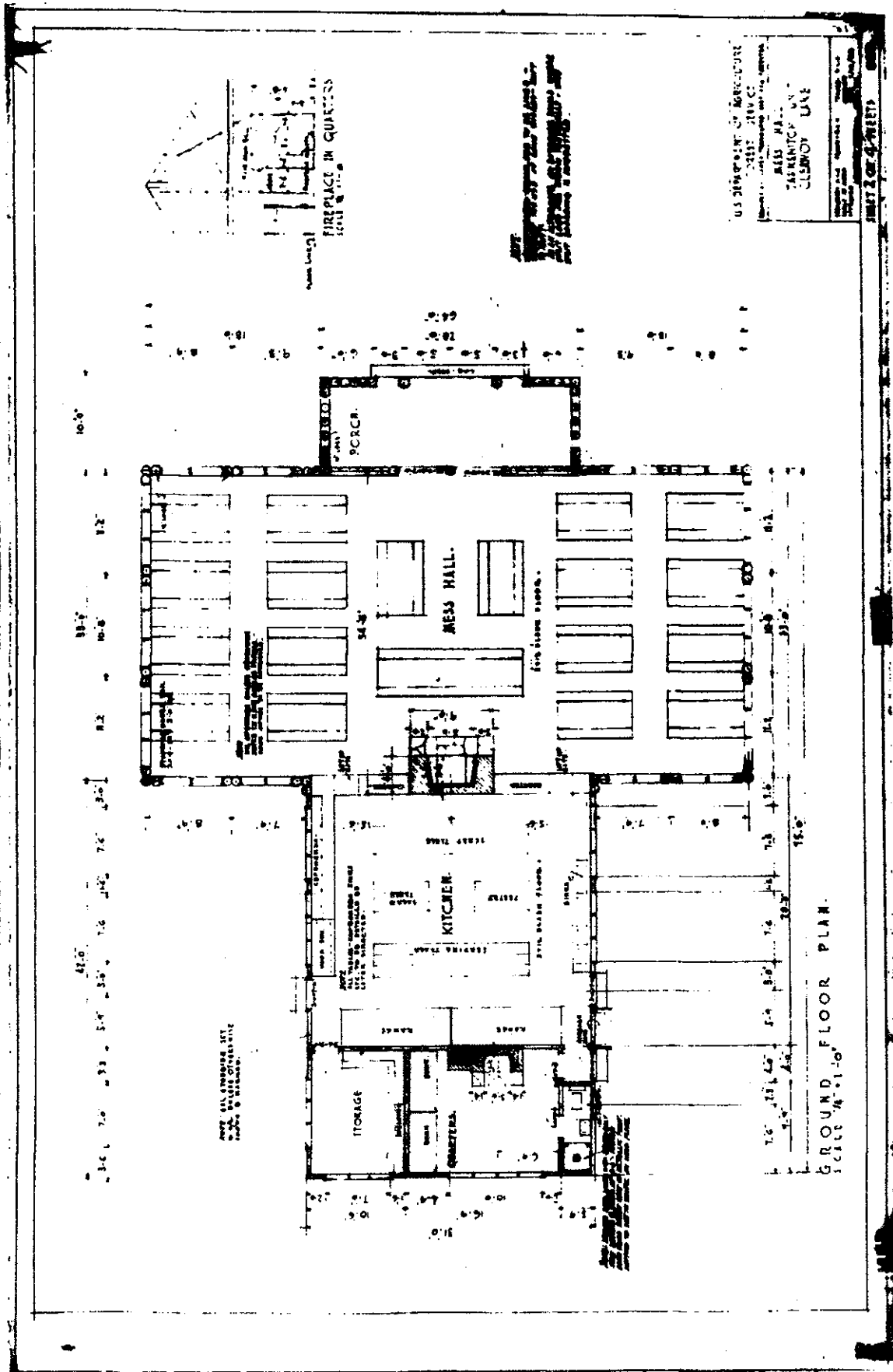
# Camp Cleawox

- EXISTING STRUCTURE 1969
- TENT PLATFORM
- ROAD
- TRAIL

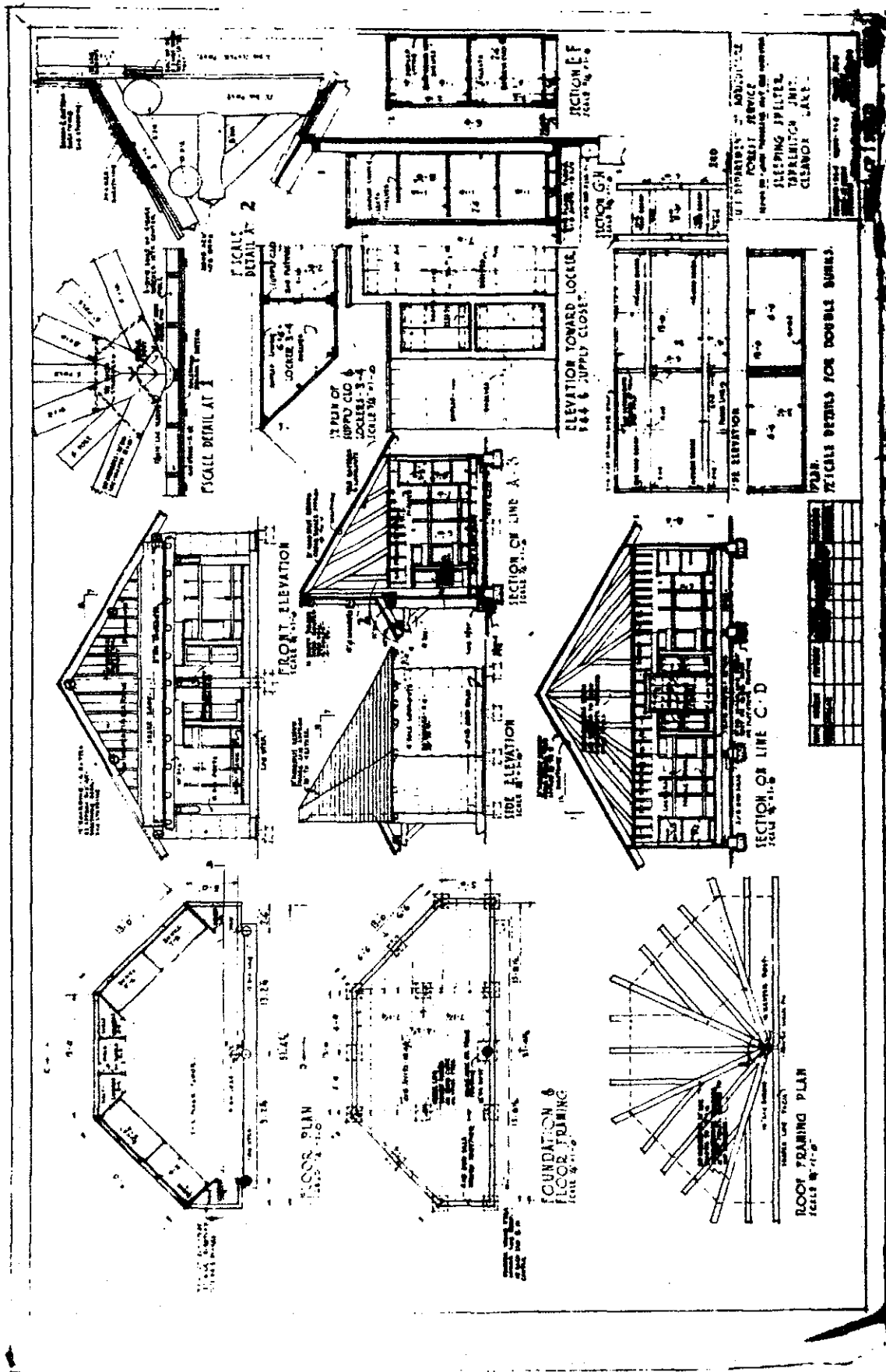


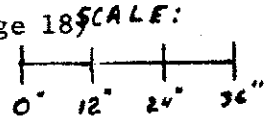












# CAMP CLEAWOX FIREPLACE

